Members of the Board

The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board (YWCHSB) is governed by a Board of Directors made up of two representatives of employers, two representatives of workers, a neutral chair and a neutral alternate chair. The chair of the Yukon Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal and the president of the YWCHSB sit as non-voting members.

Craig Tuton, *Chair*
Appointed April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2009
(Earlier appointment: March 31, 2003 – March 30, 2006)

Vicki Hancock, *Alternate Chair*
Appointed August 15, 2006 – August 14, 2009

Barbara Evans, *Representative of Workers*
Appointed September 19, 2005 – September 18, 2008
(Earlier appointments: September 19, 2002 – September 18, 2005; March 1, 2000 – August 30, 2002)

Michelle Kolla, *Representative of Workers*
Appointed July 21, 2006 – July 20, 2009
(Earlier appointments: July 21, 2003 – July 20, 2006; July 10, 2001 – July 9, 2003)

Gary Annau, *Representative of Employers*
Appointed November 29, 2005 – November 28, 2008
(Earlier appointment: November 29, 2004 – November 28, 2005)

Don Frizzell, *Representative of Employers*
Appointed December 23, 2004 – December 22, 2007
(Earlier appointment: December 23, 2002 – December 22, 2004)

Ed Sumner, *Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal Chair*
Appointed April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2009
(Earlier appointment: March 31, 2003 – March 30, 2006)

Valerie Royle, *President/CEO*

Prevention Fund

The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board (YWCHSB) created a five-year, $5 million Prevention Fund to empower Yukon workers and employers to help make Yukon workplaces safe and healthy, and invited applications in late 2005.

Seven applications to the Prevention Fund were accepted in 2006, enabling the YWCHSB to partner with various organizations to improve Yukon workplace safety and Return-To-Work outcomes.

These include:

Yukon Mine Training Association:
to develop and deliver mine safety training
Yukon Human Rights Commission:
to develop and deliver human rights & workplace safety responsibilities training program
Whitehorse PARTY ("Preventing Alcohol and Risk-related Trauma in Youth") Program:
to promote risk reduction behaviour in youth
Northern Safety Network Yukon:
to develop and deliver safety programs to small and medium size Yukon businesses
Yukon Federation of Labour:
to develop and deliver Return-To-Work training to Yukon workers, supervisors and employers
Continuing Care Branch, H&SS:
to develop and deliver injury prevention and Return-To-Work programs for health care providers
Property Management Agency:
to develop, deliver and share injury prevention and Return-To-Work program for custodial workers

Applications to the Prevention Fund for programs in line with the Fund's objectives continue to be encouraged. Information is available on the YWCHSB website at www.wcb.yk.ca.

Workplace Safety

The overall, if idealistic, goal for the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board must be to put itself out of business by helping workers, supervisors and employers develop such safety practices that no worker gets injured. If no worker is injured, no compensation system is required and employer assessment premiums would fall to zero. While no jurisdiction has ever accomplished this, there is no question that the Yukon can and must do far better than its 2006 performance, with near-record injuries and 5 worker deaths (three workplace fatalities and two by occupational disease).

This can only change with different attitudes and practices in Yukon workplaces, but YWCHSB plays an important role through education, enforcement and social marketing.
YWCHSB staff continued to be available to deliver workplace safety education in schools whenever invited to do so, and to assist Yukon businesses who wished to improve their workplace safety programs.

Enforcement became more of a challenge as the Yukon economy boomed, workplace injuries soared and qualified personnel were sought for vacant enforcement positions. The new claims management system will enable Occupational Health and Safety staff to more quickly and accurately track injury and safety trends, allowing them to identify and focus their efforts on the most pressing concerns.

Social marketing became more aggressive through the year-long, high profile "*think about it*" campaign and digital sign in front of the YWCHSB building, tracking workplace injuries on a daily basis.

The YWCHSB's successful partnership with the Yukon Federation of Labour to promote the Day of Mourning – a day to remember workers who were killed and injured on the job – also helped to focus community attention on the human as well as economic cost of poor workplace safety. Improved safety in Yukon workplaces will continue to be a key priority throughout 2007.

2006: Focus on Solutions

Early Return-To-Work and Recovery

Duration – the length of time an injured worker is off work – continues to be a challenge and cost driver. However, internal changes facilitated improved case management, and medium term (claims between one and five years from date of injury) duration began to improve in 2006, actually decreasing to below 2002 levels. It is well established that returning injured workers to their pre-injury jobs as soon as it is safe to do so improves both their rate and degree of recovery. Labour organizations are highly supportive of early and safe Return-To-Work, as the Yukon Federation of Labour Return-To-Work training initiative will demonstrate.

In 2006, considerable effort and resources went into the creation of the new claims management system.

The go live date for the new claims management system was February 12, 2007. This system will further improve the abilities of case managers to address claims duration and help injured workers return to work earlier.

The improved education and partnership focus, which now includes all health care providers, plays a key role in improving outcomes for injured workers and will continue to help reduce duration.

Focussed Return-To-Work education and CHOICES will help to bring Yukon businesses onside with Return-To-Work as a priority and key solution to helping injured workers and reducing costs of the system.

CHOICES

The YWCHSB unveiled a new incentive program, "CHOICES," in November, 2006. CHOICES is designed to encourage and assist Yukon businesses in improving workplace safety and Return-To-Work outcomes for injured workers. Employers can choose their own level of participation as well as whether they receive cash rewards or more valuable reinvestment in workplace safety. Rewards increase as participation moves on to higher levels.

Yukon employers will be eligible to apply for CHOICES rewards or refunds beginning February 2008. Further information is available on the YWCHSB website at www.wcb.yk.ca.

Effective Policies

A great deal was done in policy development in 2006. It could not have been accomplished without the hard work of the members of the Policy Working Group and the Stakeholder Advisory Committee. Some members of the public also took the time to add their input. The YWCHSB appreciates the efforts of all involved in creating or updating the following policies:

Annuities

Annuities are the payments made to an injured worker who has reached the age of 65. They are intended to reflect a portion of the pension lost because the worker missed work when injured on the job. This policy provides principles and guidelines for decision makers on the determination of annuities.

Optional Coverage

Under certain, very limited circumstances, assessment payments made by employers are optional. The majority of those affected are sole proprietors or partners. These three related policies outline the details of optional coverage for volunteers, casuals, outworkers, workers in a religious function, sole proprietors, partners, non-incorporated employers and municipal and First Nation officials.

Minimum Compensation

In the event of a work-related injury, the Act prescribes that a worker will receive 75% of their gross salary. Compensation benefits are tax-free, and the 25% taken off the gross salary acknowledges the tax-free status of benefits. However, workers at the lower end of the wage scale often pay little tax, and losing 25% of their wages can cause extreme hardship. To address this, the Act gives the Board the authority to establish a minimum threshold at or below which workers will receive 100% of their salaries.

Investigations

This policy establishes an investigations unit to ensure compliance with all Acts and policies, improve the quality of YWCHSB decisions and ensure the validity of assessment reporting, employer registration, claims for compensation and service provider billing.

Hearing Loss

This policy clarifies entitlement and coverage for hearing aids and devices. It replaces an older version.

Loss of Personal Property

Sometimes when an injury occurs, the worker also breaks, damages or loses clothing, glasses, hearing aids or other personal property. If the injury is compensable, these items can be repaired or replaced at the expense of the fund.

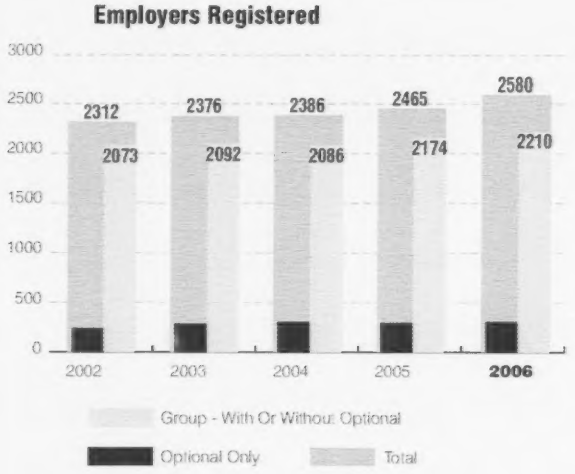
Determining Suitable Employment & Earnings Capacity Loss

Sometimes a worker is unable to fully overcome the effects of a work-related injury and will continue to have a loss of earnings capacity. This worker is entitled to compensation for the difference between their pre-injury earnings and their estimated earnings capacity once rehabilitation is completed. This policy outlines how the YWCHSB will estimate a worker's loss of earning capacity and how we will ensure that a fair, reasonable and predictable approach is followed.

Work was also started on the following policies, with anticipated completion in 2007:

Rehabilitation Policy amendment (approved February 12, 2007)
Adjudicating Psychological Disorders (approved March 20, 2007)
Arising Out Of And In The Course Of Employment
Suspension, Reduction And Termination
Mega-Projects
Investment
Pre-Existing Conditions
Cumulative Trauma

2006 Statistics



Hearing Officer

January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006

Reviews by Hearing Officer	42
Confirmed	32
Reversed	4
Varied	6
No jurisdiction	0

Appeal Panel

January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006

Occupational Health and Safety Appeals – 0

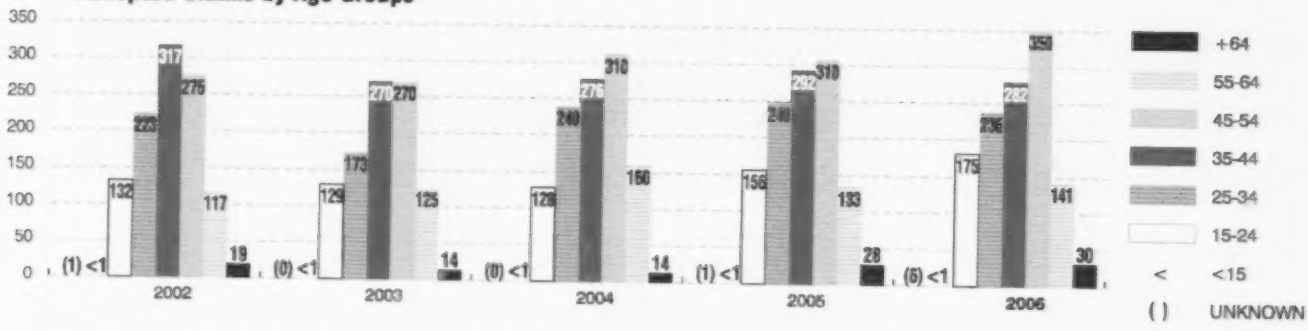
Assessment Appeals – 1 appeal which was denied.

Release of Information Statistics for 2006

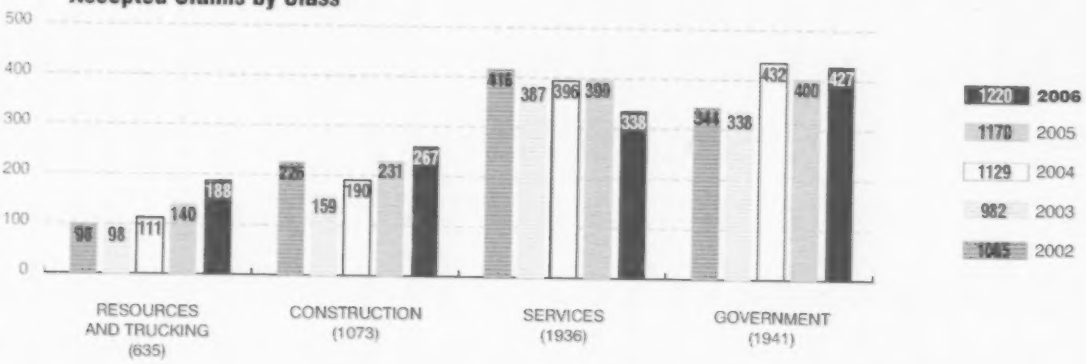
	Worker Advocate	Worker	Employer	Appeal Tribunal	Other	Total
Jan - Mar 2006	101	5	2	9	0	**117**
Apr - June 2006	55	14	2	9	2	**82**
July - Sept 2006	64	24	2	13	1	**104**
Oct - Dec 2006	45	10	2	9	1	**67**
Total:	265	53	8	40	4	**370**

2006 Statistics

Accepted Claims by Age Groups



Accepted Claims by Class

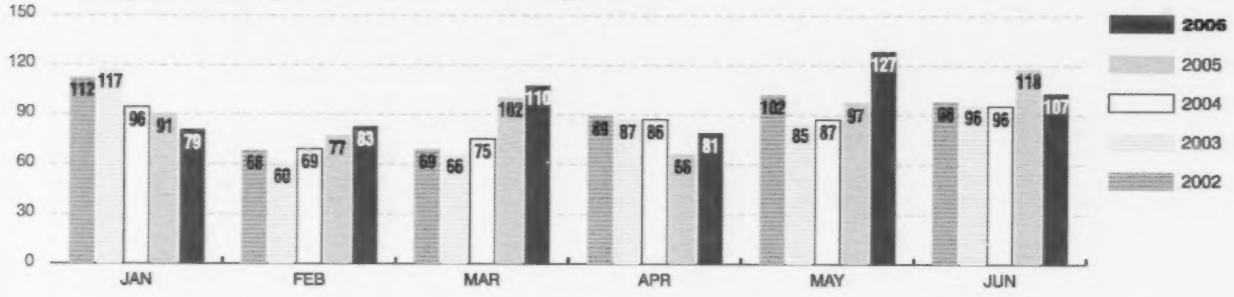


Accepted Claims by Part of Body

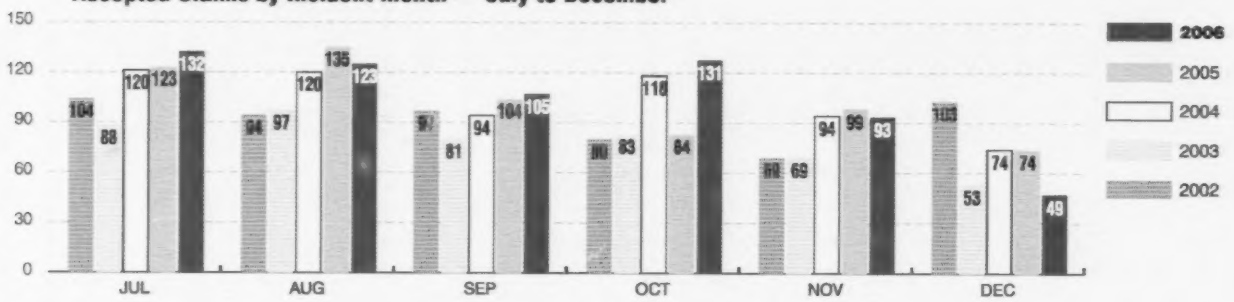
	2006	2005
Hearing Loss	10	11
Head Injuries	163	147
Neck, Including Throat	13	18
Trunk	324	314
Upper Extremities	357	381
Lower Extremities	208	197
Body Systems	51	34
Multiple Body Parts	87	67
Other Body Parts	7	1
Not Coded	0	0
Total	**1220**	**1170**

2006 Statistics

Accepted Claims by Incident Month — January to June



Accepted Claims by Incident Month — July to December

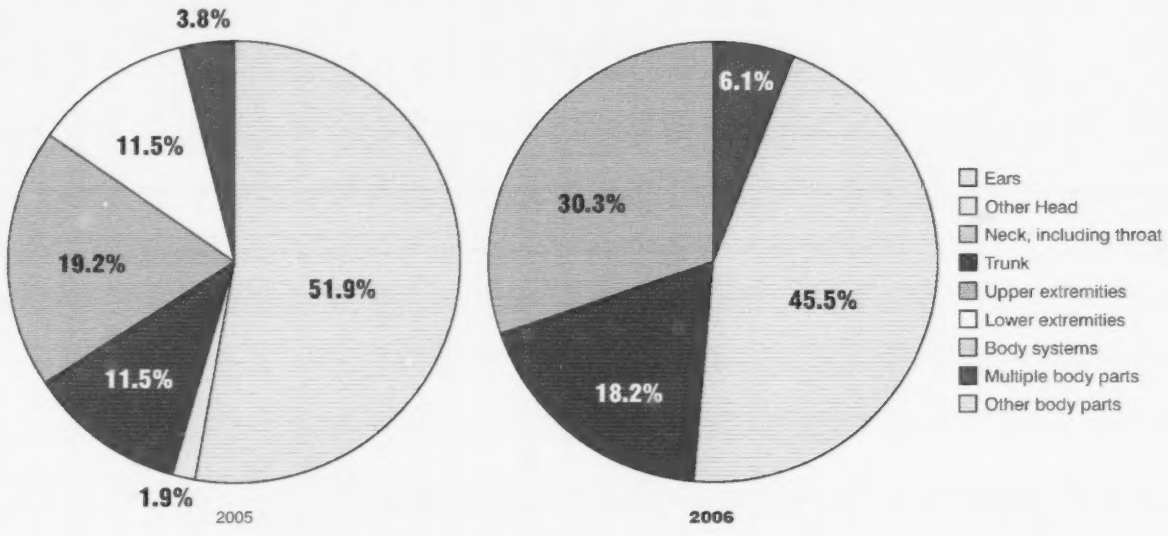


Accepted Claims by Source of Injury

	2006	2005
Chemicals & Chemical Products	79	52
Containers	83	90
Furniture & Fixtures	52	58
Machinery	71	82
Parts & Materials	155	127
Persons, Plants, Animals & Minerals	268	297
Structures & Surfaces	224	203
Tools, Instruments & Equipment	121	111
Vehicles	58	57
Other Sources	109	93
Total	**1220**	**1170**

2006 Statistics

Permanent Impairment Awards
(percentage of total number of awards)



Accepted Claims by Occupation

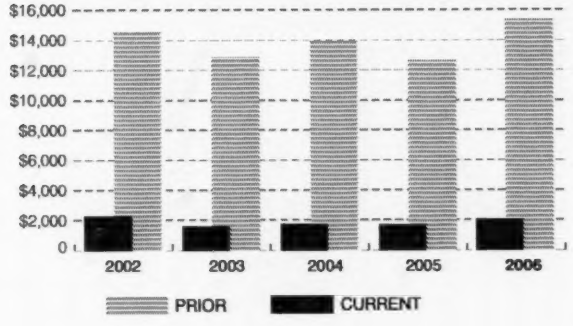
	2006	2005
Management Occupations	40	35
Business, Finance and Administrative Occupations	68	83
Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations	56	36
Health Occupations	124	120
Occupations in Social Science, Education, Government Service and Religion	47	72
Occupations in Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport	15	12
Sales and Service Occupations	262	294
Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations	515	424
Occupations Unique to Primary Industry	67	61
Occupations Unique to Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities	26	29
Unknown	0	4
Total	**1220**	**1170**

2006 Statistics

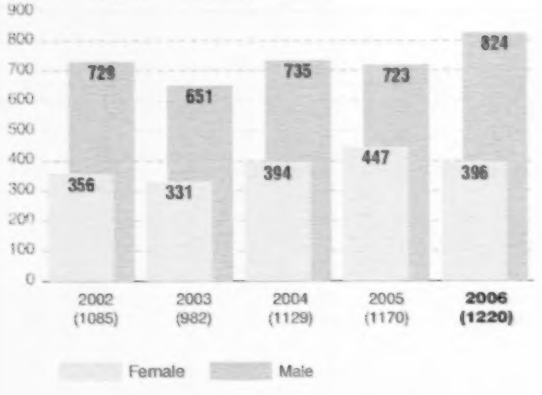
Accepted Claims by District

	2006	2005
Whitehorse	792	830
Beaver Creek	8	6
Burwash Landing	0	1
Destruction Bay	16	22
Haines Junction	28	33
Johnson's Crossing	2	0
Teslin	23	14
Swift River	1	0
Upper Liard	0	0
Watson Lake	69	73
Carmacks	13	15
Faro	24	12
Ross River	28	17
Mayo	26	13
Elsa	5	1
Keno Hill	1	0
Pelly Crossing	29	14
Stewart Crossing	3	1
Dawson City	88	88
Clinton Creek	0	0
Old Crow	8	5
Carcross-Tagish	10	12
Inside Yukon	1174	1157
Outside Yukon	14	13
Multiple Locations or Unknown	32	0
Total	**1220**	**1170**

Average Payment per Paid Claim in Constant 2006 Dollars

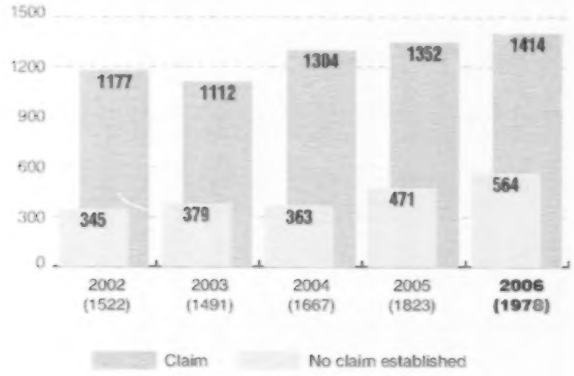


Accepted Claims by Gender

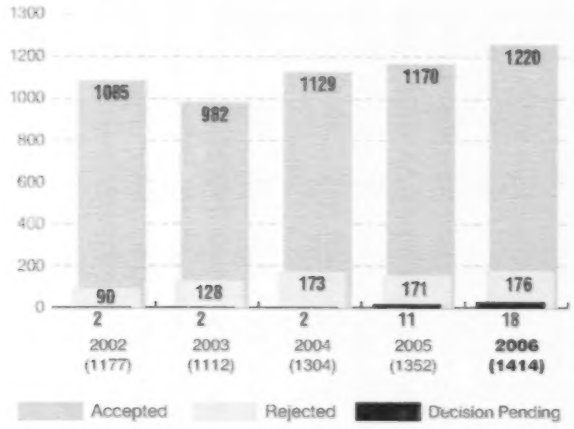


2006 Statistics

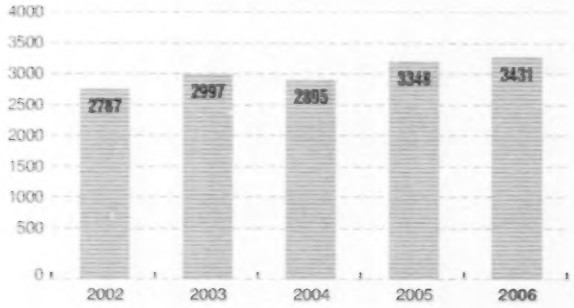
Incidents Reported



Claims by Decision Status

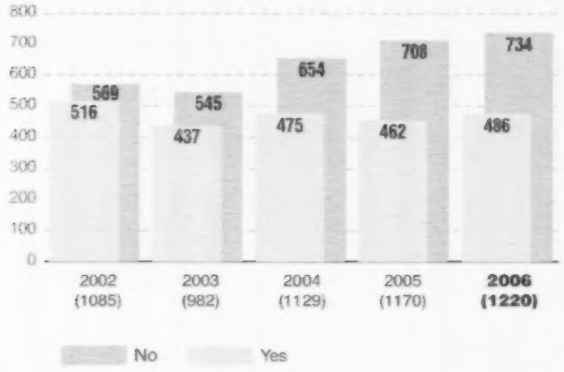


Open Claims by Year

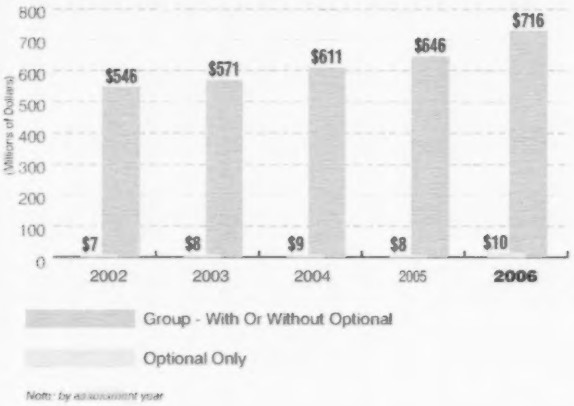


2006 Statistics

Claims by Time Loss



Assessable Payroll Reported



Note: by assessment year

Accepted Claims by Nature of Injury

	2006	2005
Traumatic Injuries & Disorders	1056	868
Systemic Diseases & Disorders	63	88
Infectious & Parasitic Diseases	4	1
Neoplasms, Tumors, & Cancer	1	0
Symptoms, Signs, & Ill-defined Conditions	36	17
Other Diseases, Conditions, & Disorders	0	0
Multiple Diseases, Conditions, & Disorders	0	0
Nonclassifiable	54	196
Not coded	6	0
Total	**1220**	**1170**

Accepted Claims by Event

	2006	2005
Contact with Objects & Equipment	409	418
Falls	136	197
Bodily Reaction & Exertion	459	371
Exposure to Harmful Substances or Environments	134	110
Transportation Accidents	44	36
Fires & Explosions	10	1
Assaults & Violent Acts	26	29
Other Events or Exposures	2	8
Total	**1220**	**1170**

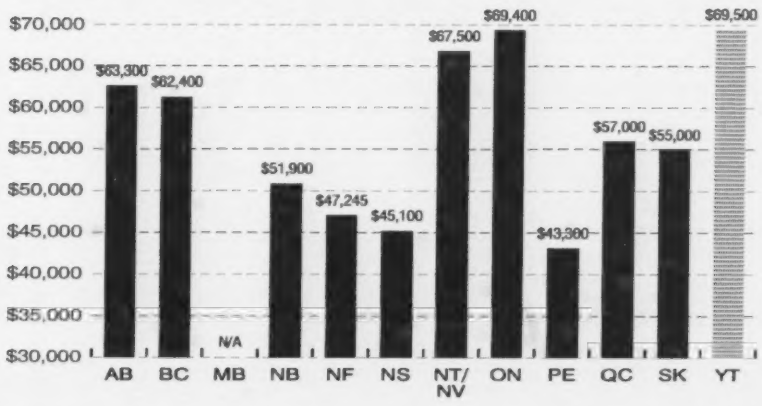
2006 Statistics

ACCEPTED CLAIMS BY INDUSTRY

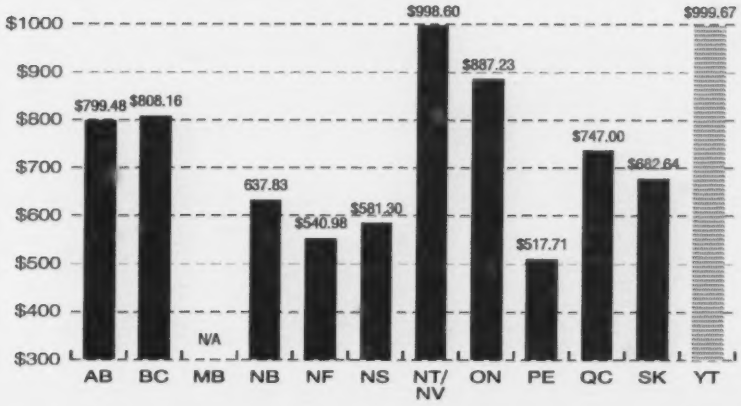
	2006	2005
Diamond Drilling	59	25
Drilling Gas or Oil Wells	2	1
Drilling or Digging Water Wells	0	0
Exploration	33	15
Farming, Trapping or Fishing	3	4
Gravel Crushing or Stockpiling	1	0
Logging, Log Hauling, Skidding or Sawmills	3	3
Long Haul Trucking	25	26
Mapping, Serveying or Prospecting	6	4
Metal Mining	5	8
Placer Mining	13	14
Short Haul Trucking	11	5
Slashing, Staking or Line Cutting	1	5
Bridge Construction or Road Making	44	43
Building Construction	105	67
Concrete Construction	4	5
Concrete Mixing Plants	1	5
Construction of Transmission Lines	7	10
Electrical Contractors	9	10
Excavation	6	3
Heating and Air Conditioning	6	4
Landscaping	2	2
Lumber Yards	13	19
Machine, Carpentry or Glazing Shops	16	9
Other Service Trades	18	16
Painting, Drywalling or Plastering	3	8
Plumbing, Steam Fitting or Gas Fitting	10	10
Trailer Courts	3	1
Welding Shops or Portable Welding	20	19
Air Services	20	25
Vehicle Sales or Service	36	37
Bulk Oil Dealers	9	4
Bus Lines or School Buses	2	5
Churches, Libraries,Museums or Schools	8	23
Cities, Towns, Villages or Municipalities	53	31
Clubs or Recreation Centres	6	7
Communication Services	5	8
Daycare	12	6
Heavy Equipment Sales or Service	5	11
Homes For Children or Seniors	30	46
Hotels,Motels, Lodges,Cabarets or Lounges	27	39
Light and Power Operation	7	8
Other Business	10	16
Other Service Industries	18	23
Outfitting	4	0
Printing, Publishing or Engraving	2	3
Professional Offices	21	22
Restaurants and Caterers	13	21
Retail Sales	58	74
Wholesale Establishments	8	14
Wilderness Adventure Tourism	10	6
First Nations	29	38
Government of the Yukon	398	362
Total	**1220**	**1170**

2006 Statistics

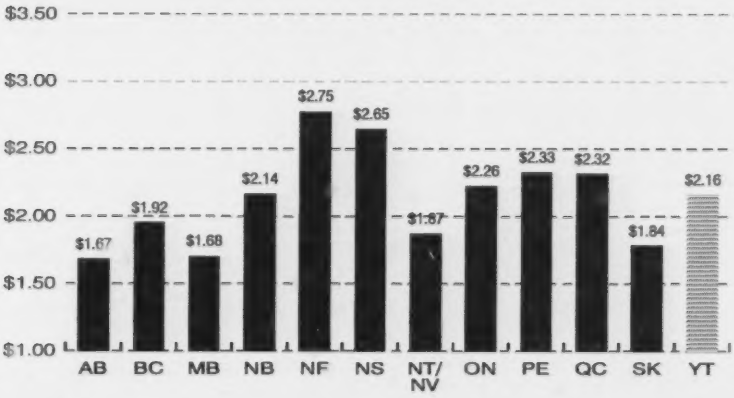
Maximum Wage Rate by Jurisdiction - 2006



Maximum Weekly Benefits for Temporary Disability by Jurisdiction - 2006



Provisional Average Assessment Rate per $100 of Assessable Payroll by Jurisdiction - 2006



2006 Year at a Glance

	2006	2005
Workers covered [1]	**20,100**	18,400
Open Claims	**3,431**	3,348
Incidents	**1,978**	1,823
Claims	**1,414**	1,352
Accepted Claims	**1,220**	1,170
Time-loss Claims [2]	**486**	462
Time-loss Claim Rate (per 100 covered workers) [2]	**2.42**	2.51
Recurrent claims [3]	**21**	16
Permanent Impairment Awards	**33**	52
Fatality Claims Accepted	**3**	1
Reviews by the Hearing Officer	**42**	60
Appeals heard by the Appeal Tribunal	**28**	31
Registered employers	**2,580**	2,465
Maximum assessable earnings/wage rate	**$69,500**	$67,000
Assessable payroll (millions)	**$726**	$654
Assessment revenue (thousands) [4]	**$16,534**	$11,688
Average collected premium rate (per $100 of insurable earnings)	**$2.28**	$1.79
Investment revenue (thousands) [4]	**$15,424**	$9,692
Investment fund market return	**12.4%**	8.0%
Fund balance (thousands) [4,5]	**$139,082**	$134,426
Funded position (per AWCBC - KSM position)	**100%**	100%

Notes:

Estimates may include revisions to prior releases.

1 Preliminary estimates for 2006.
2 Estimates of Time-loss counts based on WCHSB Annual Report definition.
3 Inactive claims reopened for payment, based on a 90-day gap in earnings loss payments per the KSM definition.
4 As per the financial statement.
5 Market value of Investments.